

BOOK REVIEWS

MATT WARNOCK TURNER. 2009. **Remarkable Plants of Texas.** (ISBN 978-0-292-71851-7, hbk.). University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78713-7819, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.utexas.edu/utpress.com, 1-800-252-3206, 1-800-687-6046 fax, email utpress@uts.cc.utexas.edu). \$29.95, 320 pp., color images and photographs, 7 1/4" x 10 1/8".

Remarkable Plants of Texas is a fantastic collection of information on Texas native plants. It includes over 100 magnificent color photographs with informational descriptions of every plant. The 65 plant entries contain one or more similar plants and are separated into plant types: trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, cacti, grasses, vines, and aquatics. Each plant entry includes helpful information such as common names, scientific family name, botanical description, habitat description, and color photographs of the plant. In addition to the basics, author Matt Turner has included plant uses and location. With regard to uses, Turner notes both historic and current applications. Some of the useful features discussed are wood quality, medicinal value, culinary uses, fiber, building materials, dyes, fragrances, uses as animal fodder, and other economic and social uses.

Remarkable Plants of Texas is a relatively unique book due to the large amount of information on Texas native plants history and uses collected all within one text. As such, Turner has provided a fantastic reference text as well as an entertaining and informative read. It is a wonderful book for considering the way people and plants are connected and interact; not only today, but also historically. Overall, this book is a great collection of facts and plant histories that any plant lover would love to read.—Lee Luckeydoo Dreese, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.

GRAHAM PAYNE. 2006. **Garden Plants for Mediterranean Climates.** (ISBN-10: 1861268955, pbk.). The Crowood Press Inc., The Stable Block, Crowood Lane, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2HR, England. (**Orders:** www.crowoodpress.co.uk, by phone 01-672-520320). \$35.00, 240 pp., 8 1/2" x 11".

A lavish guide to planning, planting, and maintaining a Mediterranean garden, featuring an A-Z of more than 1,000 plants and 500 color photos. No image of the Mediterranean is complete without flowering climbers, colorful shrubs, or lush gardens. With the help of this book you can enjoy Mediterranean plants in your own garden.

This book includes: an introduction to Mediterranean climate and points to consider when planning a garden; key features of a Mediterranean garden, including climbing plants, palms, pots, and pergolas; sections on both general care and specific plants; advice on watering and soil care; ideas on which plants to use where; an A to Z of more than 1,000 plants; and 500 gorgeous color photos. The core of the book is the A to Z of plants which includes recommended species with photos of some of the cultivars. Each entry includes a general description and growing range, general care notes for specific plants, and cultivation tips. The book includes several special appendixes: meaning of plant names, English common names, and a glossary of terms. A list for further reading concludes the book.

The primary intended audience is for those gardeners who live in a Mediterranean climate, both in and around the Mediterranean basin and elsewhere around the globe. He widens the climate envelope to include anywhere that is frost-free with a good water supply. The plants he recommends can be enjoyed in both small and large gardens with similar climates or, in cooler regions, in conservatories. Recommended for public libraries and the general reader who is interested in gardening.

Graham Payne trained as a horticulturist and followed a career as a gardener. He became Head Gardener of Downing College, Cambridge, and then Head Gardener of Jesus College, Cambridge, where he oversaw some twenty-seven acres of intensively managed gardens and sports grounds, as well as fifty other properties. He has now retired to southern Europe.—Gary L. Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.